



Mary Elizabeth Rhodes, daughter of George Henry Rhodes and Elizabeth Nissonger. Born January 23, 1818, in Boone, Warnock County, Indiana. Died March 29, 1900 at Bicknell, Utah.

William came to Utah in 1852 in Capt. Nissonger's Company with his parents. After arriving in Utah the Meeks family moved to Nephi, Utah. Three years later they were called to go to Fort Supply in Wyoming where they stayed during the time Johnston's army came through.

In 1858 or 1859 William Meeks came into Provo Valley with Joseph Parker, William Cummings, William Wall and Andrew Ross. They cut some hay and fed their livestock on what they called Meek's Bottom about two miles southwest of the present Heber City.

During the winter of 1859 and 1860 William Meeks and others built a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon, which was the pioneer sawmill in the valley. A grand-daughter, Mary Ann Meeks Wirthlin says her grandfather, William Meeks suggested that the town be called Heber City, after the given name of Heber C. Kimball.

William Meeks was the first Presiding Elder in the valley. In 1860 he helped to build a log cabin, 16 feet by 40 feet which was used for the Pioneer Day celebration that year.

The Meeks family moved to Provo from Heber City and Midway, and from there to St. George where William was killed in a horse accident.

Children of William and Mary were:
Harvey, married Catherine Dowdle
Henry, married Ann Meham
Elizabeth, married Jared Bullock
Mary Ann, married William Cummings
William, married Sarah Gardner
Joseph, married Vilate Burgess

Mary Jane, married James Pierce
Mary Melissa, married Willard Snow
Mary Louisa, married James Gardner.

WILLIAM CUMMINGS AND MARY ANN MEEKS CUMMINGS



William Cummings, born July 30, 1835, in Gibson County, Tennessee, son of John and Rachel Canarda Cummings. William married Mary Ann Meeks (born November 23, 1844, daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes Meeks) October 23, 1861, at Provo, Utah. Died January 28, 1922, at Kanosh, Utah.

William Cummings was the son of John and Rachel Canarda Cummings, born in Gibson County, Tennessee, July 30, 1835. He came to Utah with his parents in the John Maxwell company.

In the fall of 1857 William went up the Provo River with Joseph Parker, where they were trapping beaver, and came into the Provo Valley. They stayed there all winter and trapped. In the spring they built four cabins. That summer William Cum-

Andrew Ross

323

mings, Joseph Parker, Andrew Ross, William Meeks, and William Wall brought their livestock into the valley and wintered them on Meek's Bottom.

During the winter of 1859-60 these men moved to Center Creek and built a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon. William Cummings plowed the first ground in this valley. In 1860, 17 families moved to Provo Valley, among them being the parents of William and John Cummings.

William joined in the Black Hawk War. He had learned to talk with the Indians and acted as an interpreter. Chief Tabby, with a group of Indians, called at his home and demanded he make a treaty. He took the Indians to an official who was plowing a field and there a final treaty was made. This ended the Indian troubles around Heber.

William Cummings married Mary Ann Meeks, daughter of William and Mary Elizabeth Rhodes Meeks, October 23, 1861, at Provo, Utah. She was born November 23, 1844.

To them were born the following children: William, Mary Elizabeth, John, Rachel, Nancy Jane, Ada Eveline, Sarah Ann, Mary Ann, Harvey, Isaac, and Eva.

The William Cummings family and Andrew, Thomas and Robert Ross moved to southern Utah and settled at Corn Creek, which was later named Kanosh. William Cummings died January 28, 1922, at Kanosh, Utah.

(Taken from history of Eva Cummings Johnson and "History Book of the Early Utah Pioneers.")

665